

Whitefield Garrick

Newsletter

Summer 2020

A Letter from our Chairman



For the love of theatre...

Sitting at home in lockdown we have all had a lot of time to think about our lives and the things within our lives that mean the most to us. One of the things that I personally have missed most, during this global pandemic, has been the world of amateur theatre and all that this involves. I have been wrapped up in this world, particularly at Whitefield Garrick, for a large percentage of my life and it is my hobby, my passion and also my social life.

Working as part of a theatre team to create high quality productions is very time consuming and can involve 3 or 4 rehearsals a week for approximately 6 or 7 weeks prior to the first night. It is a great commitment and as many people are working during the day and then come straight to rehearsals in the evenings it can mean they sometimes see more of their 'theatre family' than they do of their actual family. This in turn requires a lot of patience and understanding from their loved ones although of course this isn't necessary if the whole family are involved (and in many cases they are!)

One of the most wonderful aspects of working in amateur theatre is that you meet and get to know people of all different ages, backgrounds, occupations and social standing who are all giving freely of their time. The one common bond between all of us being a love of theatre. All these fabulous volunteers, who in many cases I am fortunate enough to call friends, work on stage, backstage or front of house and are crucial in creating the 'theatre experience' for our audience.

Whether building sets, gathering props, devising lighting and sound plots, manning the theatre bar, selling tickets, directing, performing, prompting, publicising events, selecting plays, managing social media accounts and other tasks too numerous to mention, they are all equally important in making Whitefield Garrick a success.

For the love of theatre...

Most important of all in the mix however, is having a live audience to perform to because without you, our public, we are nothing. We do these plays because we love the process of being involved, the friendship, camaraderie and joy of being part of a team working together to producing a high quality product. The reason we have such a passion though is partly because of the response we get from our audiences.

So, without this all consuming hobby, many of us amateur theatre folk are feeling a little lost, we miss our theatre family and our audiences. We have heard from many of you that you are missing us too and we are doing our best to try to keep in touch with you and keep you entertained, in a virtual manner at least. Those of you who have joined our 'Facebook' group will have seen the video of *Blistered & Plastered* and may also have enjoyed guessing who our current *Masked Performer* is, you may have also attended one of our *Zoom Quizzes*. These offerings may not quite make up for the current absence of live performance at our theatre but we hope they go some way to keep you in touch with us in the meantime.

Our greatest wish is to return at the earliest opportunity and once more present live performances for you. We are committed to presenting 'Skylight', the production that we had to shut down in March, at some point before the end of the year and if it is at all feasible we will do so. We continue to look forward to seeing you all in person before too long and thank you wholeheartedly for your patience, understanding and continued support which we truly appreciate.

Janet Leather
Chairman



Awards and Nominations!

Along with many other Societies in the region, we were unable to complete our Season because of Covid-19. The Greater Manchester Drama Federation decided to go ahead with the Nominations and Awards relating to the plays they were able to Adjudicate for the 2019/2020 Season. The winners were announced on Saturday 11th July online.

We are delighted to announce the following very deserving Winners and Nominees. Congratulations to all !

Winner! Julie Cunningham

Best Supporting Female Actor in Under Milkwood



Winner! Whitefield Garrick Technical Team

Peter Hill, Phil Cohen and Howard Sidlow, for Under Milk Wood



Stacey Friedman

Nominated - Best Female Actor for Madame Rubenstein.



Caroline G Weekes

Nominated - Best Supporting Female Actor in The Hollow.



John Cunningham

Nominated - Best Director for Under Milk Wood.

STAGE STRUCK

We are currently developing *Stage Struck*, an exciting online showcase to shine a light on the incredible talent of members of Whitefield Garrick.

Would you be interested in penning and performing your own short poem, drama, song or anecdote?

If so please video yourself on your phone and send it to Janet Leather via *Whatsapp, Facebook, Messenger or Email* and, if it is suitable, she will upload it to our *Facebook Group*. If you don't want to perform your own creation then why not video yourself performing a short (out of copyright) piece? Perhaps a Shakespeare monologue?

Whatever you decide, please let Janet know privately, the name of the play, playwright and character you are playing, but don't say that on the video. We hope to invite our membership to see if they can *Name that Play* after watching your performances, (No Googling allowed). We are looking forward to presenting some fabulous *Stage Struck* performances on our *Facebook Group* very soon.

If you are not currently a member please make sure that you join in order to follow all the exciting new ways we are developing, to keep you entertained.



The Garrick Future after 'Lockdown'

Janet's letter has outlined some of the measures we are taking in order to keep our wonderful theatre alive and in the forefront of your attention. Please contact Janet if you would like to become involved in any of the projects she has mentioned. The future of The Garrick is paramount in our minds and we are making every effort to keep in touch with our loyal membership. We are attempting to anticipate the Government Guidelines as to when actors and theatres can return to the stage and present you with a season of great plays. We hope you will bear with us in our efforts and we obviously look forward to opening our doors again as soon as possible.

Keep on checking our website or Facebook pages to keep up to date with information and we will of course keep in touch with all of you on a regular basis by Mailchimp and the Newsletter.

Some of our Masked Performers



Chris Balmer



Peter Hill



Julie Cunningham



Matt Sheader



Bob Howell



John O'Connell



Carole Taylor



Alfie Howard



Robin Thompson

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS & EVENTS



The following productions may be postponed or rescheduled due to Covid-19.

These Shining Lives

by Melanie Marnich

Directed by Julie Cunningham

14th to 21st November 2020 (tbc)

Dangerous Corner

by J B Priestley

Directed by John Cunningham

16th to 23rd January 2021 (tbc)

The Anniversary

by Bill McIlwraith

Directed by Glenn Robinson

13th to 20th March 2021 (tbc)

The Titfield Thunderbolt

by Philip Goulding

directed by Andrea Parle

8th to 15th May 2021 (tbc)

The following productions have been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. We plan to bring them to Whitefield Garrick in future seasons.

Tons of Money

by Will Evans and Arthur Valentine

Adapted by Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Andrew Close

Blue Remembered Hills

by Dennis Potter

Directed by Brian Seymour